

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is in response to Applicant's submission filed 4/23/08, responding to the 2/22/08 Office action which detailed the rejection of claims 1, 3, 6-10, 12-17, 20-22, 31-33, 35-39, and 42-44. Claims 16 and 38 have been amended. Claims 1, 3, 6-10, 12-17, 20-22, 31-33, 35-39, and 42-44 remain pending in the application and have been fully considered by the examiner.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments, see pages 10-12, 14-15, and 17 filed 4/23/08, with respect to the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejections of claims 1, 3, 6-10, 12-17, 20-22, 31-33, 35-39, and 42-44 have been withdrawn.

3. Applicants arguments, see pages 10, 12, 14, 15, and 17 filed 4/23/08, regarding the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) with respect to prior art of record "Enterprise JavaBeans" by Monson-Haefel have been fully considered and are persuasive. While these arguments were directed to the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejections, they nonetheless also apply to the obviousness type double patenting rejection in view of Monson-Haefel. Therefore, the double patenting rejection has been withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1, 3, 6-10, 12-17, 20-22, 31-33, 35-39, and 42-44 are allowed.
5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

As Applicants have persuasively pointed out (see pages 10-12, 14-15, and 17 filed 4/23/08), the cited prior art taken alone or in combination fail to teach, in combination with the other claimed limitations, declarative annotations, when recognized by a compiler through analysis of the represented portion of web service logic which includes the declarative annotations, causing the compiler to generate one or more persistent components to maintain conversational state related to the identified method; wherein the one or more declarative annotations indicate to the compiler whether the identified method is at least one of a start method, a continue method, or a finish method, wherein the start method applies to start of a stateful conversation between a client and the web service, the continue method applies to continuation of an ongoing stateful conversation between a client and the web service, and the finish method applies to completion of an ongoing stateful conversation between a client and the web service. These limitations are present in each of independent claims 1, 16, 31, and 38. The distinctions provided by the independent claims apply equally to all dependent claims. Thus all pending claims 1, 3, 6-10, 12-17, 20-22, 31-33, 35-39, and 42-44 are allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JAMES RUTTEN whose telephone number is (571)272-3703. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:00-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tuan Q. Dam can be reached on (571)272-3695. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/J. R./
Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2192

/Tuan Q. Dam/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2192